

## **CLAIMS**

5     1.     A method for submission of a media collection to a media distribution site, said method comprising:

obtaining metadata for the media collection;

identifying media content for a plurality of media items to be included in the media collection, the media content being imported from a media source;

10         converting the identified media content for the plurality of media items into compressed media files;

obtaining metadata for the identified media content;

forming an electronic package of the media collection, the electronic package including at least the compressed media files and the metadata associated with the media collection and the identified media content; and

15         electronically transmitting the electronic package to the media distribution site.

2.     A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the media collection obtained includes at least descriptive media collection information.

3.     A method as recited in claim 2, wherein the descriptive media collection information includes, for the media collection, at least a title, an artist, a genre, a label name, copyright information, release information, and a numerical identifier.

4.     A method as recited in claim 3, wherein the descriptive media collection information further includes an image to be used as artwork for the media collection.

5. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the media collection is entered by a user.

5 6. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the media items are songs,  
and

wherein said converting encodes the media content for each of the songs into a compressed audio format.

10 7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the compressed audio format is MPEG based.

8. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the compressed audio format is MPEG4 based.

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9. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the compressed audio format is Advanced Audio Coding (AAC).

10. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein the compressed audio format  
20 is MP4, M4 or M4a.

11. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the media items are audio tracks.

25 12. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the identified media content includes at least descriptive media item information for each of the media items of the identified media content.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the descriptive media item information includes, for the corresponding media item, at least a title, an artist, a genre, track number, a label name, copyright information, and a numerical identifier.

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14. A method as recited in claim 13, wherein the descriptive media item information further includes an indication as to whether the identified media content is available for sale.

10 15. A method as recited in claim 14, wherein the descriptive media item information further includes a parental advisory.

16. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the identified media content is entered by a user.

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17. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a first portion of the metadata for the identified media content is obtained from the metadata for the media collection.

20 18. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein a second portion of the metadata for the identified media content is entered by a user.

19. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the identified media content includes an indication as to whether the identified media  
25 content is available for sale.

20. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the metadata for the imported media content includes a parental advisory.

21. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein the electronic package of the media collection comprises a folder of files, one of the files is a markup language file containing at least the metadata; another of the files is an image file for artwork associated with the media collection, and a plurality of other of  
5 the files are compressed audio files.

22. A method as recited in claim 21, wherein the markup language file is an XML file, the image file is a JPEG file, and the compressed audio files are MPEG4 based.

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23. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said transmitting operates to electronically transmit the electronic package to the media distribution site over the Internet using encryption.

15 24. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:  
receiving the electronic package at the media distribution site;  
parsing the electronic package to retrieve components from the electronic package, the components including at least the identified media content in the compressed media format, the metadata for the media  
20 collection and the metadata for the at least one media item; and  
storing the components into a media distribution database.

25. A method as recited in claim 24, wherein said method further comprises:  
25 rendering the media collection and the media items thereof available for online purchase at the media distribution site.

26. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method further comprises:

rendering the media collection and the media items thereof available for online purchase at the media distribution site.

27. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said method is performed by  
5 an application program.

28. A method as recited in claim 27, wherein, when the application program performs said obtaining of the metadata for the media collection and said obtaining of the metadata for the identified media content, a user  
10 interacts with the application program.

29. A method as recited in claim 28, wherein the user is a representative for an independent recording label, and wherein said application program facilitates the independent recording label in submission of the media  
15 collection to the media distribution site for subsequent online distribution.

30. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein said transmitting comprises:  
determining whether the electronic package should be transmitted or  
queued;  
20 queuing the electronic package when said determining determines that the electronic package should be queued; and  
transmitting the electronic package to the media distribution site when said determining determines that the electronic package should be  
transmitted.

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31. A computer readable medium including at least computer program code for submission of a media collection to a media distribution site, said computer readable medium comprising:

computer program code for identifying media content for a plurality of media items to be included in the media collection, the media content being imported from a media source;

5 computer program code for converting the identified media content for the plurality of media items into compressed media files;

computer program code for obtaining metadata for the identified media content;

10 computer program code for forming an electronic package of the media collection, the electronic package including at least the compressed media files and the metadata associated with the identified media content; and

computer program code for electronically transmitting the electronic package to the media distribution site.

15 32. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the electronic package is a folder having a plurality of files.

33. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the media items are audio tracks, and the compressed media files are compressed format audio files.

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34. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer code for identifying the media content operates to assist a user in identifying the media content.

25 35. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the media source is a compact disc.

36. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the metadata is provided by a user.

37. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 36, wherein the metadata for the identified media content includes an indication as to whether the identified media content is available for sale.

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38. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the metadata for the identified media content includes a parental advisory indication.

10 39. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein the media distribution site is an online media distribution site.

40. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer program code for electronically transmitting operates to  
15 electronically transmit the electronic package to the media distribution site over the Internet using encryption.

41. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31,  
wherein the metadata identifies artwork associated with the media  
20 collection or the identified media content, and  
wherein the electronic package of the media collection comprises a folder of files, one of the files is an markup language file containing at least the metadata, another of the files is an image file for the artwork, and a plurality of other of the files are the compressed media files.

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42. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 41, wherein the markup language file is an XML file, the image file is a JPEG file, and the compressed media files are MPEG4 based.

43. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer program code for electronically transmitting comprises:

computer program code for determining whether the electronic package should be transmitted or queued;

5 computer program code for queuing the electronic package when said computer program code for determining determines that the electronic package should be queued; and

10 computer program code for transmitting the electronic package to the media distribution site when said computer program code for determining determines that the electronic package should be transmitted.

44. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 43, wherein said computer program code for electronically transmitting further comprises:

15 computer program code for encrypting at least a portion of the electronic package prior to transmission to the media distribution site.

45. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer readable medium further comprises:

20 computer program code for rendering the media collection and the media items thereof available for online purchase at the media distribution site.

46. A computer readable medium as recited in claim 31, wherein said computer readable medium facilitates an independent recording label with  
25 submission of the media collection to the media distribution site for subsequent online distribution.

47. A graphical user interface for submitting a media collection to a media distribution site, said graphical user interface comprising:



a media collection information window used to receive media collection information;

an import window used to designate media items to be imported from one or more media sources; and

5 a media content information window used to receive media content information pertaining to the designated media items.

48. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 47, wherein said graphical user interface is used by a user, and the user first interacts with said media  
10 collection window, then said import window, and thereafter said media content information window.

49. A graphical user interface as recited in claim 47, wherein said media content information window displays the media items in an upper area, and  
15 provides lower area for a user to enter the media content information pertaining to a selected one of the media items.